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S.273

Introduced by Senators White, Ayer, and Clarkson

Referred to Committee on Government Operations

Date: January 3, 2018

Subject: Public safety; government operations; law enforcement;  
miscellaneous

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make miscellaneous amendments regarding law enforcement in the operation of government. The bill addresses the topics of law enforcement officer training; officer recruitment and retention; the administration of law enforcement services; law enforcement coverage; and 911 call-taking (PSAPs) and dispatch.

An act relating to miscellaneous law enforcement amendments

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

~~\*\*\* Training \*\*\*~~

Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2352 is amended to read:

§ 2352. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

(a)(1) The Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall consist of:

(A) the Commissioners of Public Safety, of Corrections, of Motor

~~Vehicles, and of Fish and Wildlife,~~

1 ~~(B) the Attorney General;~~

2 (C) a member of the Vermont Troopers' Association or its successor  
3 entity, elected by its membership;

4 ~~(D) a member of the Vermont Police Association, elected by its~~  
5 membership;

6 ~~(E) a member of the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont,~~  
7 ~~appointed by the President of the Association;~~

8 ~~(F) a member of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, appointed by the~~  
9 ~~President of the Association; and~~

10 ~~(E)(G) five~~ three additional members appointed by the Governor.

11 (i) The Governor's appointees shall provide broad representation  
12 of all aspects of law enforcement and the public in Vermont on the Council.

13 (ii) The Governor shall solicit recommendations for appointment  
14 from the Vermont State's Attorneys Association, the Vermont State's Sheriffs  
15 Sheriffs' Association, the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont Police  
16 ~~Chiefs Association, and the Vermont Constables Association.~~

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 2355 is amended to read:

19 § 2355. COUNCIL POWERS AND DUTIES

20 \* \* \*

21 ~~(b)(1)(A) The Council shall conduct and administer training schools and~~

1 ~~offer courses of instruction for law enforcement officers and other criminal~~  
2 justice personnel. The Council shall offer courses of instruction for law  
3 enforcement officers in different areas of the State and shall strive to offer  
4 nonovernight courses whenever possible.

5 (B) The Council shall offer its training programs for law enforcement  
6 officers on a first-come, first-served basis.

7 (2) The Council may also offer the basic officer's course for pre-service  
8 preservice students and educational outreach courses for the public, including  
9 firearms safety and use of force.

10 \* \* \*

11 Sec. 3. COUNCIL; REPORT ON NONOVERNIGHT TRAINING

12 On or before January 1, 2019, the Executive Director of the Vermont  
13 Criminal Justice Training Council shall report to the Senate and House  
14 Committees on Government Operations regarding the Council's plan to replace  
15 some of its overnight law enforcement training requirements at the Robert H.  
16 Wood, Jr. Criminal Justice and Fire Service Training Center of Vermont (the  
17 Police Academy) with nonovernight training in other areas of the State, in  
18 accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 2355(b)(1)(A) in Sec. 2 of this act.

19 Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 2358 is amended to read:

20 § 2358. MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS; DEFINITIONS

21 \* \* \*

22 ~~(b) The Council shall offer or approve basic training and annual in-service~~

1 ~~training for each of the following three levels of law enforcement officer~~

2 certification in accordance with the scope of practice for each level, and shall  
3 determine by rule the scope of practice for each level in accordance with the  
4 provisions of this section:

5 (1) Level I certification.

6 \* \* \*

7 (2) Level II certification.

8 \* \* \*

9 (3) Level III certification.

10 \* \* \*

11 (c)(1) All programs required by this section shall be approved by the  
12 Council.

13 (2) The Council shall structure its programs so that a Level II certified  
14 officer may complete additional training in block steps in order to transition to  
15 Level III certification, without such an officer needing to restart the  
16 certification process.

17 (3) Completion of a program shall be established by a certificate to that  
18 effect signed by the Executive Director of the Council.

19 \* \* \*

20 \* \* \* Recruitment and Retention \* \* \*

21 ~~Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. § 2362b is added to read.~~

§ 2362b. RECRUITMENT FEE

A law enforcement agency that hires a law enforcement officer employed by another law enforcement agency within two years of that officer's initial certification shall reimburse that employing agency for any costs the employing agency paid for that officer's training and certification.

Sec. 6. STATE TREASURER; RETIREMENT DIVISION; PROPOSED PLAN; LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS COVERED UNDER VERMONT MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

(a) On or before January 1, 2019, the State Treasurer's Retirement Division shall submit to the Senate and House Committees on Government Operations a proposed plan to place municipal law enforcement officers covered under the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Vermont (VMERS) on a new retirement plan substantially equivalent to the retirement plan that covers law enforcement officers under the Vermont State Retirement System (VSRS), except for the health and medical benefits available to officers under the VSRS.

(b) The Retirement Division's proposed plan shall include:

(1) recommendations on how to transition VMERS officers to the new retirement plan, including any specific timing recommendations;

(2) the costs associated with the new retirement plan; and

(3) concerns, if any, regarding the new retirement plan.

1 \*\*\* Administration \*\*\*

2 Sec. 7. 20 V.S.A. § 2053 is amended to read:

3 § 2053. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES; UNIVERSAL STATE  
4 SYSTEM OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

5 (a) The ~~center~~ Center shall cooperate with other ~~state~~ State departments  
6 and agencies, municipal police departments, sheriffs<sub>2</sub>, and other law  
7 enforcement officers in ~~this state~~ State and with federal and international law  
8 enforcement agencies to develop and carry on a uniform and complete ~~state~~  
9 State, interstate, national<sub>2</sub>, and international system of records of criminal  
10 activities and information.

11 (b) All ~~state~~ State departments and agencies, municipal police departments,  
12 sheriffs<sub>2</sub>, and other law enforcement officers shall ~~cooperate with and assist the~~  
13 ~~center in the establishment of a complete and~~ use a uniform, universal system  
14 of records approved by the Center relating to the commission of crimes,  
15 arrests, convictions, imprisonment, probation, parole, fingerprints,  
16 photographs, stolen property<sub>2</sub>, and other matters relating to the identification  
17 and records of persons who have or who are alleged to have committed a  
18 crime, who are missing persons<sub>2</sub>, or who are fugitives from justice.

19 Sec. 8. 20 V.S.A. chapter 113, subchapter 2 is amended to read:

20 Subchapter 2. State Police

21 § 1910. DUTIES OF THE STATE POLICE; PROHIBITION ON

MUNICIPAL CONTRACTS

(a) The duties of the State Police are:

(1) the detection and investigation of major crimes;

(2) the patrol of highways and the operation of traffic thereon; and

(3) special investigations.

(b) The State Police is prohibited from entering into contracts with municipalities for the provision of law enforcement services.

\* \* \*

Sec. 9. VERMONT STATE POLICE; PROHIBITION ON RENEWING  
MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTS

In accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 1910(b) set forth in Sec. 8 of this act, the Vermont State Police shall be permitted to fulfill but is prohibited from renewing any contract it has with a municipality for the provision of law enforcement services that is in effect on the effective date of that section.

Sec. 10. 24 V.S.A. § 4382 is amended to read:

§ 4382. THE PLAN FOR A MUNICIPALITY

(a) A plan for a municipality may be consistent with the goals established in section 4302 of this title and compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region and with the regional plan and shall include the following:

1 ~~(13) A public safety plan, including an analysis of the police, fire, and~~  
2 ~~emergency medical service resources, needs, scarcities, costs, and problems~~  
3 ~~within the municipality.~~

4 \* \* \*

5 Sec. 11. APPLICABILITY TO MUNICIPAL PLANS

6 Sec. 10 of this act, amending 24 V.S.A. § 4382 (the plan for a  
7 municipality), shall apply to municipal plans adopted or amended on or after  
8 January 1, 2019.

9 \* \* \* Coverage \* \* \*

10 Sec. 12. 20 V.S.A. § 2055 is amended to read:

11 § 2055. FILES

12 (a) The ~~director~~ Director of the Vermont ~~crime information center~~ Crime  
13 Information Center shall:

14 (1) disseminate on a quarterly basis to the legislative body of each town  
15 in the State without a police department a report describing the nature of  
16 crimes alleged to have been committed in that town in the preceding quarter,  
17 without providing any personally identifying information; and

18 (2) maintain and disseminate such files as are necessary relating to the  
19 commission of crimes, arrests, convictions, disposition of criminal causes,  
20 probation, parole, fugitives from justice, missing persons, fingerprints,  
21 photographs, stolen property, and such matters as the ~~commissioner~~  
22 Commissioner deems relevant.

1 ~~(b) The director Director shall maintain criminal records pursuant to this~~  
2 chapter regardless of whether the record is fingerprint supported. Any “no  
3 print, no record” rule or policy of the center Center shall be void.

4 Sec. 13. LEAB; REPEAL FOR RECODIFICATION

5 24 V.S.A. § 1939 (Law Enforcement Advisory Board) is repealed.

6 Sec. 14. 20 V.S.A. § 1818 is added to read:

7 § 1818. LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

8 (a) The Law Enforcement Advisory Board is created within the  
9 Department of Public Safety to advise the Commissioner of Public Safety, the  
10 Governor, and the General Assembly on issues involving the cooperation and  
11 coordination of all agencies that exercise law enforcement responsibilities.

12 The Board shall review any matter that affects more than one law enforcement  
13 agency. The Board shall comprise the following members:

14 (1) the Commissioner of Public Safety;

15 (2) the Director of the Vermont State Police;

16 (3) the Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Services Division;

17 (4) a member of the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont appointed  
18 by the President of the Association;

19 (5) a member of the Vermont Sheriffs’ Association appointed by the  
20 President of the Association;

21 (6) a representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns  
22 appointed by the Executive Director of the League,

1 ~~(7) a member of the Vermont Police Association appointed by the~~  
2 President of the Association;  
3 ~~(8) the Attorney General or designee;~~  
4 ~~(9) a State's Attorney appointed by the Executive Director of the~~  
5 Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs;  
6 ~~(10) the U.S. Attorney or designee;~~  
7 ~~(11) the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training~~  
8 Council;  
9 ~~(12) the Defender General or designee;~~  
10 ~~(13) one representative of the Vermont Troopers' Association or its~~  
11 successor entity, elected by its membership; and  
12 ~~(14) a member of the Vermont Constables Association appointed by the~~  
13 President of the Association.  
14 (b) The Board shall elect a chair and a vice chair, which positions shall  
15 rotate among the various member representatives. Each member shall serve a  
16 term of two years. The Board shall meet at the call of the Chair. A quorum  
17 shall consist of eight members, and decisions of the Board shall require the  
18 approval of a majority of those members present and voting.  
19 (c) The Board shall undertake an ongoing formal review process of law  
20 enforcement policies and practices with a goal of developing a comprehensive  
21 approach to providing the best services to Vermonters, given monies available.

1 ~~The Board shall also provide educational resources to Vermonters about public~~  
2 ~~safety challenges in the State.~~

3 ~~(d)(1) The Board shall meet not fewer than six times a year to develop~~  
4 ~~policies and recommendations for law enforcement priority needs, including~~  
5 ~~retirement benefits, recruitment of officers, training, homeland security issues,~~  
6 ~~dispatching, and comprehensive drug enforcement.~~

7 ~~(2) The Board shall present its findings and recommendations in brief~~  
8 ~~summary form to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on~~  
9 ~~Government Operations annually on or before January 15.~~

10 Sec. 15. LEAB; RECODIFICATION DIRECTIVE

11 ~~(a) 24 V.S.A. § 1939 is recodified as 20 V.S.A. § 1818. During statutory~~  
12 ~~revision, the Office of Legislative Council shall revise accordingly any~~  
13 ~~references to 24 V.S.A. § 1939 in the Vermont Statutes Annotated.~~

14 ~~(b) Any references in session law and adopted rules to 24 V.S.A. § 1939 as~~  
15 ~~previously codified shall be deemed to refer to 20 V.S.A. § 1818.~~

16 Sec. 16. LEAB; 2019 REPORT ON MUNICIPAL ACCESS TO LAW

17 ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

18 ~~As part of its annual report in the year 2019, the Law Enforcement~~  
19 ~~Advisory Board shall specifically recommend ways that towns can increase~~  
20 ~~access to law enforcement services.~~

21 ~~911 Call-Taking (TSATs) and Dispatch~~

1 ~~Sec. 17. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; PSAPS; PLAN FOR~~

2 TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY

3 (a) Repeal. 2016 Acts and Resolves No. 118, Sec. 3 (Department of Public  
4 Safety; 911 call-taking), which requires the Department of Public Safety to  
5 continue to provide 911 call-taking services unless otherwise directed by  
6 legislative enactment, is repealed on July 1, 2020, and the Department shall be  
7 prohibited from providing 911 call-taking services on that date.

8 (b) Plan for transfer of authority.

9 (1) In accordance with subsection (a) of this section, the Department  
10 shall consult with the Enhanced 911 Board and with any interested municipal  
11 and county law enforcement entities in the State in order to propose a plan to  
12 transfer the Department's existing 911 call-taking services to such an interested  
13 law enforcement entity.

14 (2) On or before January 1, 2019, the Department shall submit its  
15 proposed plan to:

16 (A) the Senate Committees on Finance, on Government Operations,  
17 on Appropriations, and on Economic Development, Housing and General  
18 Affairs;

19 (B) the House Committees on Commerce and Economic  
20 Development, on Government Operations, on Appropriations, and on Ways  
21 and Means, and

1 ~~(C) the Governor~~

2 Sec. 18. AGENCY OF COMMERCE AND COMMUNITY

3 DEVELOPMENT; REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS;  
4 PUBLIC SAFETY PLANNING GRANTS

5 (a) Appropriation. The sum of \$1.00 is appropriated to the Agency of  
6 Commerce and Community Development in fiscal year 2019 for the public  
7 safety planning grants to regional planning commissions described in  
8 subsection (b) of this section. The Agency shall award the grants in  
9 accordance with its procedure established under the Vermont Community  
10 Development Act.

11 (b) Public safety planning grants.

12 (1) A regional planning commission may apply to the Agency for a  
13 public safety planning grant for the purpose of planning the integration,  
14 consolidation, or regionalization of public safety functions within the  
15 commission's jurisdiction. A grant shall be for a maximum of three years and  
16 shall not exceed \$1.00.

17 (2) As used in this section:

18 (A)(i) "Planning" means hiring personnel or contracting for services  
19 to determine the feasibility of or to establish the procedure to implement, or  
20 both, the integration, consolidation, or regionalization of public safety  
21 functions.

1 ~~(j) "Planning" does not mean implementing such integration~~  
2 ~~consolidation, or regionalization.~~

3 ~~(B) "Public safety functions" means fire, police, emergency medical~~  
4 ~~services, and dispatching services.~~

5 \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

6 Sec. 19. EFFECTIVE DATES

7 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018, except the following sections shall  
8 take effect on July 1, 2019:

9 (1) Sec. 2, amending 20 V.S.A. § 2355 (Council powers and duties);

10 (2) Sec. 4, amending 20 V.S.A. § 2358 (minimum training standards;  
11 definitions);

12 (3) Sec. 5, adding 20 V.S.A. § 2362b (recruitment fee);

13 (4) Sec. 7, amending 20 V.S.A. § 2053 (cooperation with other  
14 agencies; universal State system of criminal records); and

15 (5) Sec. 8, adding 20 V.S.A. § 1910 (duties of the State Police;

16 prohibition on municipal contracts).

*\* \* \* Training \* \* \**

*Sec. 1. 20 V.S.A. § 2352 is amended to read:*

*§ 2352. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP*

*(a)(1) The Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall consist of:*

*(A) the Commissioners of Public Safety, of ~~Corrections~~, of Motor  
Vehicles, ~~and~~ of Fish and Wildlife, and of Mental Health;*

*(B) the Attorney General;*

~~(C) a member of the Vermont Troopers' Association or its successor entity, elected by its membership;~~

~~(D) a member of the Vermont Police Association, elected by its membership; and~~

~~(E) five additional members appointed by the Governor.~~

~~(i) The Governor's appointees shall provide broad representation of all aspects of law enforcement and the public in Vermont on the Council.~~

~~(ii) The Governor shall solicit recommendations for appointment from the Vermont State's Attorneys Association, the Vermont State's Sheriffs Association, the Vermont Police Chiefs Association, and the Vermont Constables Association a member of the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont, appointed by the President of the Association;~~

~~(F) a member of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, appointed by the President of the Association;~~

~~(G) a law enforcement officer appointed by the President of the Vermont State Employees Association;~~

~~(H) an employee of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, appointed by the Executive Director of the League;~~

~~(I) an employee of the Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services, appointed by the Executive Director of the Center; and~~

~~(J) three public members who shall not be law enforcement officers, current legislators, or otherwise be employed in the criminal justice system, one of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House, one of whom shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees, and one of whom shall be appointed by the Governor.~~

\* \* \*

Sec. 2. 20 V.S.A. § 2355 is amended to read:

§ 2355. COUNCIL POWERS AND DUTIES

(a) The Council shall adopt rules with respect to:

(1) the approval, or revocation thereof, of law enforcement officer training schools and off-site training programs, which shall include rules to identify and implement alternate routes to certification aside from the training provided at the Vermont Police Academy;

\* \* \*

(b)(1)(A) The Council shall conduct and administer training schools and

offer courses of instruction for law enforcement officers and other criminal justice personnel. The Council shall offer courses of instruction for law enforcement officers in multiple regions of the State and shall strive to replace overnight courses with these regional trainings whenever possible.

(B) The Council shall offer its training programs for law enforcement officers on a first-come, first-served basis and only for named individuals.

(2) The Council may also offer the basic officer's course for pre-service preservice students and educational outreach courses for the public, including firearms safety and use of force.

\* \* \*

### Sec. 3. COUNCIL; REPORT ON TRAINING ALTERNATIVES

On or before January 15, 2019, the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council shall report to the Senate and House Committees on Government Operations regarding the Council's identification and implementation of alternate routes to certification and its plan to replace some of its overnight law enforcement training requirements at the Robert H. Wood, Jr. Criminal Justice and Fire Service Training Center of Vermont (Police Academy) with training in multiple regions of the State, in accordance with 20 V.S.A. § 2355 in Sec. 2 of this act. The report may be in verbal form.

Sec. 4. 20 V.S.A. § 2361 is amended to read:

#### § 2361. ADDITIONAL TRAINING

(a) Nothing in this chapter prohibits any State law enforcement agency, department, or office or any municipality or county of the State from providing additional training beyond basic training to its personnel where no certification is requested of or required by the Council or its Executive Director.

(b) The head of a State agency, department, or office, a municipality's chief of police, or a sheriff executive officer of a law enforcement agency may seek certification from the Council for any in-service training he or she may provide to his or her employees law enforcement officers of his or her agency, or of another agency, or both.

Sec. 5. 20 V.S.A. § 2358 is amended to read:

#### § 2358. MINIMUM TRAINING STANDARDS; DEFINITIONS

\* \* \*

(b) The Council shall offer or approve basic training and annual in-service training for each of the following three levels of law enforcement officer

*certification in accordance with the scope of practice for each level, and shall determine by rule the scope of practice for each level in accordance with the provisions of this section:*

*(1) Level I certification.*

*\* \* \**

*(2) Level II certification.*

*\* \* \**

*(3) Level III certification.*

*\* \* \**

*(c)(1) All programs required by this section shall be approved by the Council.*

*(2) The Council shall structure its programs so that an officer certified as a Level II law enforcement officer may complete additional training in block steps in order to transition to Level III certification, without such an officer needing to restart the certification process.*

*(3) Completion of a program shall be established by a certificate to that effect signed by the Executive Director of the Council.*

*\* \* \**

*\* \* \* Administration \* \* \**

*Sec. 6. 20 V.S.A. § 2053 is amended to read:*

*§ 2053. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES*

*(a) ~~The center~~ Center shall cooperate with other ~~state~~ State departments and agencies, municipal police departments, sheriffs, and other law enforcement officers in this ~~state~~ State and with federal and international law enforcement agencies to develop and carry on a uniform and complete ~~state~~ State, interstate, national, and international system of records of ~~criminal activities~~ commission of crimes and information.*

*(b)(1) All ~~state~~ State departments and agencies, municipal police departments, sheriffs, and other law enforcement officers shall cooperate with and assist the ~~center~~ Center in the establishment of a complete and uniform system of records relating to the commission of crimes, arrests, convictions, imprisonment, probation, parole, fingerprints, photographs, stolen property, and other matters relating to the identification and records of persons who have or who are alleged to have committed a crime, or who are missing persons, or who are fugitives from justice.*

(2) In order to meet the requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Center shall establish and provide training on a uniform list of definitions to be used in entering data into a law enforcement agency's system of records, and every law enforcement officer shall use those definitions when entering data into his or her agency's system.

\* \* \* Coverage \* \* \*

Sec. 7. 20 V.S.A. chapter 113, subchapter 2 is amended to read:

*Subchapter 2. State Police*

\* \* \*

§ 1916. STATE POLICE BARRACKS; DUTY TO PROVIDE CALL INFORMATION

On a quarterly basis, each State Police barracks shall submit to the selectboard of each town within the barracks' jurisdiction a report describing the nature of calls to the State Police from residents in that town in the preceding quarter, without providing any personally identifying information.

Sec. 7a. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; REPORT ON TOWN CALLS TO THE VERMONT STATE POLICE

(a) The Department of Public Safety shall determine the number of calls from towns the Vermont State Police received in fiscal year 2018 and, in consultation with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns as necessary, determine the number of those calls that came from each town without a police department.

(b) On or before November 15, 2018, the Commissioner of Public Safety shall report to the Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations and the House Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations regarding the Department's findings as set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 8. LEAB; REPEAL FOR RECODIFICATION

24 V.S.A. § 1939 (Law Enforcement Advisory Board) is repealed.

Sec. 9. 20 V.S.A. § 1818 is added to read:

§ 1818. LAW ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

(a) The Law Enforcement Advisory Board is created within the Department of Public Safety to advise the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Governor, and the General Assembly on issues involving the cooperation and coordination of all agencies that exercise law enforcement responsibilities. The Board shall review any matter that affects more than one law enforcement

agency. The Board shall comprise the following members:

- (1) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;
- (2) a member of the Chiefs of Police Association of Vermont appointed by the President of the Association;
- (3) a member of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association appointed by the President of the Association;
- (4) a representative of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns appointed by the Executive Director of the League;
- (5) a member of the Vermont Police Association appointed by the President of the Association;
- (6) the Attorney General or designee;
- (7) a State's Attorney appointed by the Executive Director of the Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs;
- (8) the U.S. Attorney or designee;
- (9) the Executive Director of the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council;
- (10) the Defender General or designee;
- (11) a representative of the Vermont Troopers' Association or its successor entity, elected by its membership;
- (12) a member of the Vermont Constables Association appointed by the President of the Association; and
- (13) a law enforcement officer appointed by the President of the Vermont State Employees Association.

(b) The Board shall elect a chair and a vice chair, which positions shall rotate among the various member representatives. Each member shall serve a term of two years. The Board shall meet at the call of the Chair or a majority of the members. A quorum shall consist of seven members, and decisions of the Board shall require the approval of a majority of those members present and voting.

(c) The Board shall undertake an ongoing formal process of reviewing law enforcement policies and practices with a goal of developing a comprehensive approach to providing the best services to Vermonters, given the monies available. The Board shall also provide educational resources to Vermonters about public safety challenges in the State.

(d)(1) The Board shall meet at its discretion to develop policies and

recommendations for law enforcement priority needs, including retirement benefits, recruitment of officers, training, homeland security issues, dispatching, and comprehensive drug enforcement.

(2) The Board shall present its findings and recommendations in brief summary form to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on Government Operations annually on or before January 15.

*Sec. 10. LEAB; RECODIFICATION DIRECTIVE*

(a) 24 V.S.A. § 1939 is recodified as 20 V.S.A. § 1818. During statutory revision, the Office of Legislative Council shall revise accordingly any references to 24 V.S.A. § 1939 in the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

(b) Any references in session law and adopted rules to 24 V.S.A. § 1939 as previously codified shall be deemed to refer to 20 V.S.A. § 1818.

*Sec. 11. LEAB; 2019 REPORT ON MUNICIPAL ACCESS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES*

As part of its annual report in the year 2019, the Law Enforcement Advisory Board shall specifically recommend ways that towns can increase access to law enforcement services.

*\* \* \* Dispatch \* \* \**

*Sec. 12. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE VERMONT ENHANCED 911 BOARD; PROPOSAL FOR AN EQUITABLE STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH SYSTEM*

(a)(1) The Department of Public Safety and the Vermont Enhanced 911 Board shall consult with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns as an equal partner in order to propose a plan that would result in a comprehensive, efficient, and equitably funded public safety dispatch system to dispatch law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services statewide. In proposing the plan, consideration shall be given to existing and planned regional dispatch centers.

(2) Included in the proposed plan shall be recommendations regarding:

(A) the manner in which different dispatch services should communicate among each other;

(B) whether there should be different dispatching services used among State agencies and departments;

(C) the role of regional dispatch centers;

(D) the funding source or sources for the proposed plan; and

(E) the timeframe for implementing the proposed plan.

(b) On or before November 1, 2019, the Department and the Board shall jointly submit the proposed plan to:

(1) the Senate Committees on Finance, on Government Operations, on Appropriations, and on Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs;

(2) the House Committees on Commerce and Economic Development, on Government Operations, on Appropriations, and on Ways and Means; and

(3) the Governor.

*\* \* \* Effective Dates and Implementation \* \* \**

*Sec. 13. EFFECTIVE DATES; IMPLEMENTATION*

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018, except the following sections shall take effect on July 1, 2019:

(1) Sec. 2, amending 20 V.S.A. § 2355 (Council powers and duties), except that the requirement to adopt rules set forth in subdivision (a)(1) of that section shall take effect on July 1, 2018 so that those rules are adopted on or before July 1, 2019;

(2) Sec. 5, amending 20 V.S.A. § 2358 (minimum training standards; definitions); and

(3) Sec. 6, amending 20 V.S.A. § 2053 (cooperation with other agencies).